Spring 2020

History 800

History Graduate Research

"You must write a thesis that you are able to write."
Umberto Eco

Research is critical to the development of any dissertation. This course provides history graduate students with an opportunity to hone their research skills, advance their dissertation writing, and bring their projects to completion. The instructor and the students will meet every week and discuss topics directly related to the students' research and writing progress. The students will learn the key components of a history dissertation, chart a course of action for their respective projects, and master the necessary tools to report their research findings successfully. The will also learn about grant opportunities for dissertation research and dissertation completion as well as how to adjust their projects' timeline in case of unexpected delays. Completing a history dissertation is not a small task but, with proper guidance and resources, it can also result into a meaningful experience in addition to a valuable scholarly contribution.

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Domingues
Email: domingues@rice.edu
Office place: School of Humanities 304
Office hours: T 11:00 am to 12:00 pm
Class place: School of Humanities 304
Class time: T 3:30 to 4:45 pm

Topics

1. Introductions and Overview
2. Titles and Subtitles: What's Your Dissertation About?
3. The Abstract as a Compass (or a Working Thesis)
4. The Table of Contents: Mapping the Road Ahead
5. The Literature Review: What's Special About Your Research?
6. Chapters and their Sections: Organizing Your Arguments and Supporting Evidence
7. Primary Sources: Are You Missing Anything?
8. Grants for Dissertation Research and Dissertation Completion
9. Microsoft Word: Styles, Breaks, and Pagination
10. Topic Sentences and Their Subordinates: Building a Dissertation Outline
11. Zotero: Footnotes and Bibliography
12. Adjusting Your Project Timeline
13. Keep on Writing!

14. What's Next for You?

Bibliography

Banner Jr., James M. *Being a Historian: An Introduction to the Professional World of History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Burke, Peter, ed. *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*. 2nd ed. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001.

Eco, Umberto. *How to Write a Thesis*. Translated by Caterina Mongiat Farina and Geoff Farina. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2015.

Gustafson, Melanie. *Becoming a Historian: A Survival Manual*. Washington, D.C.: American Historical Association, 2003.

Hunt, Lynn. *Writing History in the Global Era*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2014.

Poe, Marshall T. *How to Read a History Book: The Hidden History of History*. Alresford: Zero Books, 2018.

Course Organization

This course is organized in the form of a seminar with one meeting per week. Time in class will be dedicated to discussion. The instructor reserves the right to intervene in the syllabus whenever he thinks appropriate, including to change readings and to add materials.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is required from every student. Students are allowed up to one unexcused absence. If a student misses class for a second time without a formal excuse, he or she will be automatically withdrawn from this course. Students are responsible for obtaining notes and announcements made in the classes they missed. Long periods of absence due to illness must be explained either by: 1) a signed letter from the Doctor (not an appointment card, bill, receipt, or prescription) with the dates the student remained ill, or 2) a letter from the Dean of the Students.

Assignments and Grades

Throughout the semester, students will continue with their research and work on their respective dissertations. They will revise chapters that have already been drafted and will work on those that they have yet to write, including the introduction, conclusion, and the bibliography. At the end of the semester, they will submit a report that will describe what they have accomplished throughout the semester. No grade will be given until the report is submitted. Only one grade will be given at the end of the semester and it will be either "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory."

- All written work due May 1, 11:59 pm by email to dd41@rice.edu
- Final report due May 5, 11:59 pm by email to dd41@rice.edu

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Complete their dissertation research

- Advance their dissertation writing
- Search for additional funding for dissertation research or dissertation completion
- Adjust the timeline of their projects as needed
- Complete their dissertation and prepare themselves for their next move

Academic Conduct

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook, which outlines the university's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated.

Audio and Video Recording

Students may not make audio or video recordings of class activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline in accordance with the law.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability that may affect academic performance, you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Resource Center (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) meet with me to discuss your accommodation needs. Additional information about the Disability Support Services is available at dss.rice.edu/.

Title IX Reporting

Rice University encourages any student who has experienced an incident of harassment, pregnancy discrimination or gender discrimination or relationship, sexual, or other forms of interpersonal violence to seek support. Students should be aware that all employees, including myself, are required by law to report all incidents of non-consensual interpersonal behaviors involving Rice faculty or students. Reporting does not necessarily mean that action is taken without the agreement of students. For more information, or to make a report please visit safe.rice.edu or email titleixsupport@rice.edu. You may also speak confidentially to a therapist in the Rice Counseling Center. To schedule an appointment dial 713-348-3311.

Emergency Plan

In the event of an emergency, the university's emergency management plan will take priority over the timeline of this syllabus. Detailed information about emergency preparedness is available at emergency.rice.edu/.